NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
WESTERN REGION
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

OCTOBER 22, 2003

REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

Congratulations WFO Seattle and Northwest RFC: The staffs at the NWS Forecast Office in Seattle and the Northwest River Forecast Center in Portland provided excellent services and demonstrated outstanding teamwork during this week's flood event in western Washington.

Forecasts from NWRFC showed the potential for significant flooding over the weekend. WFO Seattle advertised the event well in advance by issuing a Hydrologic Outlook on Saturday, followed by a Flood Watch on Sunday, and Flood Warnings on Monday morning. Rivers began flooding later that morning. The forecasts from the NWRFC verified very well, especially on the Skagit River near Concrete which crested at a new record of 42.2 feet (flood stage is 28 feet). The RFC went to 24-hour operations Monday through Thursday. WFO Seattle gave around 200 media interviews during the event. Feedback from the Washington State Department of Transportation was that the NWS did an outstanding job on this event. Four thousand people were evacuated during this record breaking event, but no fatalities or injuries were reported.

Jim Reynolds, Medford WCM, presents outgoing Jackson County emergency manager, Sandra Eccker, with a certificate of appreciation during the Medford emergency manager and media workshop.

WFO Medford Hosts Emergency Manager and Media Workshop: On Wednesday, October 22, WFO Medford hosted its 9th annual Emergency Manager and Media workshop. County and city emergency managers from southwest Oregon and northeast California, as well as a few local TV personalities, including the Chief Meteorologist of a station in Eugene, Oregon, attended the event.

Presentations were given by the Medford staff and guest speakers Joanne Salerno from the NWRFC and Jim Fahey from the CNRFC. Topics of discussion included hydrologic issues, format changes to the Hazardous Weather Outlook, Special Weather Statements, and Zone Forecast Products. An update was given on the evolution of Medford's IFPS, and attendees learned more about the StormReady program. Medford also presented outgoing Jackson County Emergency Manager, Sandra Eccker, with a certificate of appreciation for her support.

WFO Seattle SOO Brad Colman addresses IFPS and NDFD at the workshop.

Winter Weather Workshop in Seattle: WFO Seattle held their annual media and emergency management workshop on October 16 and 17. The annual workshop provides a way to address area media, emergency managers, utilities, and school districts about winter weather season preparedness.

This year's workshop featured a Pacific NW winter weather outlook from Vern Kousky and Wayne Higgins of CPC via a teleconference; introduction of the new state climatologist, Dr. Phillip Mote, of the University of Washington; a briefing on new NWS IFPS/NDFD products; and an update of NWS products and services, including hydrology for the coming winter season.

More than 100 people attended the workshop, including nearly all area TV and news radio stations. While the workshops were being held, the season's first flood and wind event was underway.

NWS San Francisco Bay Area forecasters Scott Kennedy and Rick Canepa worked together for OceanFest 2003 activities.

NOAA Coordination Program: Staff from NWSFO San Francisco Bay Area participated in the October 11 OceanFest in San Francisco. As members of NOAA's intra-agency San Francisco Bay NOAA Coordination Program (SFBNCP), the NWS joined staff from the National Marine Fisheries, NOAA Corp, National Ocean Service, NOAA Office of General Counsel, and NOAA Office of Law Enforcement for the event which drew more than 10,000 people to the Gulf of the Farrallons National Marine Sanctuary near the Golden Gate Bridge. Each line office had an exhibit explaining their areas of responsibility and staff available to answer questions from the visitors.

The SFBNCP is one of four pilot projects around the country where various NOAA line offices who are co-located in a geographic area and have a high concentration of NOAA employees and activities, partner and work jointly on common interests. The pilot programs have been underway since October 2002 in Tampa Bay, Seattle-Tacoma, San Francisco Bay, and Ann Arbor-Detroit.

METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES DIVISION

Statement of the Week: This week's statement of the week is an RER written by intern Jeff Rood of WFO Seattle-Tacoma. Jeff did a nice job summarizing the record rainfall over western Washington which gave rise (no pun intended) to serious flooding in the area. Nice job Jeff!

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RECORD EVENT REPORT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE SEATTLE WA
340 AM PDT TUE OCT 21 2003

...THE WETTEST DAY IN SEATTLE WEATHER HISTORY...SINCE 1891...

...RECORD RAINFALL IN WESTERN WASHINGTON ON MONDAY OCT 20TH...

NUMEROUS DAILY RAINFALL RECORDS WERE BROKEN ACROSS WESTERN WASHINGTON TODAY. SEA-TAC AIRPORT ALSO EXCEEDED ITS ALL-TIME DAILY RAINFALL RECORD. A SUMMARY OF RAINFALL RECORDS BROKEN FOLLOWS:

LOCATION	MONDAY RAINFALL	PREVIOUS RECORD / YEAR
SHELTON	7.20 INCHES	1.55 INCHES / 1966
HOQUIAM	5.39 INCHES	0.93 INCHES / 1956
SEA-TAC AIRPORT	5.02 INCHES	1.27 INCHES / 1956
OLYMPIA	4.12 INCHES	1.68 INCHES / 1956
NOAA SANDPOINT	3.59 INCHES	0.85 INCHES / 2000
PORT ANGELES	2.36 INCHES	1.67 INCHES / 1956
STAMPEDE PASS	2.28 INCHES	1.65 INCHES / 1946
BELLINGHAM	1.40 INCHES	0.55 INCHES / 1978

THE ALL-TIME WETTEST DAY AT SEA-TAC WAS 11/20/1959 WITH 3.41 INCHES.

THE ALL-TIME WETTEST DAY AT OLYMPIA IS 11/19/1962 WITH 4.33 INCHES...MONDAY RANKS AS THE SECOND WETTEST DAY IN HISTORY AT OLYMPIA.

THE GREATEST 24 HOUR PRECIPITATION AT SEA-TAC WAS 3.74 INCHES SET ON OCTOBER 5TH AND 6TH IN 1981.

THE GREATEST 24 HOUR PRECIPITATION AT THE FEDERAL BUILDING IN SEATTLE WAS 3.52 INCHES ON DECEMBER 11TH AND 12TH IN 1921.

OTHER NOTABLE RAINFALL AMOUNTS ON MONDAY...UNKNOWN AT THIS TIME IF THESE AMOUNTS ARE RECORDS.

RENTON	4.48 INCHES
FRIDAY HARBOR	1.77 INCHES
BOEING FIELD	4.04 INCHES
PAINE FIELD	1.79 INCHES

Fire Weather Program: The Great Basin Coordinating Group (GBCG) and the Rocky Mountain Coordinating Group (RMCG) conducted a joint end of season meeting on October 16 in Denver. Scott Birch, Western Region Fire Weather Program Manager, and Rusty Billingsley, National Fire Weather Program Manager, were invited to discuss the status of the fire weather program with the Coordination Groups. Many good suggestions for program improvement were discussed by the fire managers from Idaho, Utah, Nevada, Wyoming, Colorado, Nebraska, and South Dakota.

Coastal Storms Initiative Meeting: Western Region Headquarters (WRH) participated in a coastal storms meeting in Astoria, Oregon, on October 8-9. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss a series of pending projects in the Pacific Northwest, under the sponsorship of the Coastal Storms Initiative (CSI). CSI is a nationwide efford led by NOAA to lessen the impacts of storms on coastal communities. In addition to WRH, the meeting was also attended by representatives from NWS Headquarters (Office of Science and Technology), NOAA (Sea Grant, Environmental Technical Laboratory, Northwest Fisheries Science Center, and Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management), WFO Portland, and various other federal, state (Oregon and Washington), and local agencies and organizations.

The meeting focused on the Pacific Northwest Pilot Project, which includes several sub-projects under CSI. Two of these sub-projects, “Improved Oceanographic and Meteorological Observations” and “Improved Prediction of Coastal Waves,” will begin to provide concrete benefits to forecasters in the Pacific Northwest in the near future. Specific plans include deployment of a new NOAA environmental data buoy and installation of a low-altitude wind/temperature profiler (both to be located along the north Oregon Coast; precise locations yet to be determined). The new buoy and profiler will supply critical additional wind and temperature data for forecasts and warnings from northwestern Oregon to southwestern Washington. Plans also call for implementation of a high resolution ocean wave model at WFO Portland. A goal of this new wave model is to increase the accuracy of wave forecasts in the near-shore environment, including particularly hazardous locations such as the Columbia River bar. Additionally, water level sensors along the lower Columbia River (National Water Level Observation Network, operated by NOAA) will be updated, with new weather sensors added at some existing sites.

HYDROLOGY AND CLIMATE SERVICES DIVISION

NWS Customers and Partners Attend Mini-Hydrology Conference at Boise Forecast Office: Chuck Orwig, Steve King, and Joanne Salerno from the NWRFC made hydrology presentations at the Boise Forecast Office on October 7 and 8, 2003. NWS partners and customers from the USGS, NRCS, Idaho Department of Water Resources, and Idaho Power also attended the mini-hydrology conference. Several interesting and informative presentations on NWRFC products and services and the interaction between the RFC and WFO were made. Everyone gained a much better

understanding of the NWS hydrology program and mission. The NWRFC hydrologists, along with Tim Barker and Jay Breidenbach from the Boise WFO, also visited Owyhee Reservoir which is a flood and water supply forecast point. Owyhee dam was the largest concrete structure ever built when completed in 1928 and was used as a model for Hoover Dam.

Cecil Wilson (center), discusses the history of the Owyhee dam with Joanne Solerno, Tim Barker, Steve King, and Chuck Orwig

SCIENTIFIC SERVICES DIVISION

IFPS Methodology Workshop II---Oct 28-30, Boulder: This is a sponsored by NWSHQ and WR. The workshop is a follow-up to the first IFPS workshop, with the emphasis on the "lessons learned" during the ORD and IOC and preparing for the upcoming winter season in the west. Each WR office will send one participant as well a offices from the mountain west and Alaska. Travel and accounting codes were sent out via email.

Intermountain Weather Workshop---November 6: The Tenth Annual Workshop on Weather Prediction in the Intermountain West will be held on November 6 at the Desert Research Institute (DRI) in Reno, Nevada. The objectives of this annual workshop are to discuss major issues related to operational meteorology over the western United States and to foster interactions between researchers, applied meteorologists, and other professionals who rely on operational weather forecasts or data.

This year marks the first time that the workshop will be held in Reno, along the eastern slopes of the Sierra Nevada. With such a backdrop, the theme of the workshop will be "Meteorology of the Sierra Nevada". Presentations on operational meteorology issues relevant to both the western and eastern slopes of the Sierra Nevada, and other regions in the west whose weather is impacted by the Sierra Nevada, are encouraged. The workshop is being hosted by the DRI Division of Atmospheric Sciences.

Go to the workshop web page at http://www.conferences.dri.edu/WxPrediction for additional information.

WR Webmaster Workshop---January 27-29, Reno: The date of the workshop has been changed to January 27-29. The focus of the workshop will be upgrading to the new web farm, IFPS web page implementation, AHPS web pages, meeting NWS web policy, security and other issues. Each office will be asked to send one participant.

SYSTEMS OPERATIONS DIVISION

NOAA Weather Radio: ROAMS (remote of air monitoring system) was installed at the Bear Lake Utah NWR transmitter. Western Region will upgrade this cooperator location with a generator and an improved transmitter.

The Davis Peak NWR transmitter (WNG-604) was installed on October 7. The installation was handled by Joe Lachacz (WRH) and Bryan Alley (PQR). This transmitter will provide NWR coverage into the Longview/Kelso area in Washington.

The Neahkahnie (WWF-94) and Cape Meares (WWF-95), OR, NWR transmitters were upgraded to 100 watt Master III transmitters. New antennas and RF transmission cable were also installed.

A new All Hazards NWR receiver has been placed along northern California's Interstate Highway 5 just north of Weed, enabling travelers to have access to weather information any time of the day. The receiver is a cooperative effort between the NWS in Medford, Oregon, and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) office is Redding.

SOD Chief, Bob Diaz, helps dedicate the new Dillon, Montana, NWR transmitter.

NWR Transmitter Dedications:

Maurer Peak --- Residents living near Dillon, Montana, can now stay on top of weather activity with a direct link to official forecasts from a new NOAA Weather Radio transmitter installed at Maurer Peak, south of Dillon.

The transmitter was dedicated October 20. WRH SOD Chief Bob Diaz, WRH Regional Maintenance Specialist Joe Lachacz, and Craig Schmidt, of WRH MSD, joined WFO Great Falls, local officials, and USDA Rural Utility Service state director Tim Ryan for the ceremony. The transmitter was brought to Montana via the USDA's RUS grant program. Beaverhead County purchased and donated this transmitter to the NWS.

(l to r) Participating in the dedication ceremony: WCM Vern Preston, Cassia County Emergency Services Sheriff Jim Higens, Under Sheriff Cary Bristol, MIC Jim Meyers, USDA RUS Twin Falls reps Kim Jacobs and Larry Stachler, and Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security Area Field Director Gary Davis

Cotterel Peak --- A new NOAA weather radio transmitter has been installed at Cotterel Peak near Burley, Idaho. The transmitter is now broadcasting local weather and emergency information from the Pocatello NWS Weather Forecast Office. The Cassia County Emergency Services purchased the transmitter with a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Utility Service. The State of Idaho Microwave Services donated building and tower space as well as electrical power for the new transmitter.

A dedication ceremony was held on October 8. The ceremony was attended by staff members representing Idaho U.S. Congressman Mike Simpson and U.S. Senators Larry Craig and Michael Crapo. The new transmitter will help the residents, ranchers, and visitors to this area get the most current weather information via NOAA Weather Radio. The transmitter is located in a strategic location to provide services to

residents of Cassia, Minidoka, southern Blaine and western Power Counties and the heavily traveled Interstate 84 corridor.

Facilities: A Facilities meeting was held in Logan, Utah on October 16. In attendance were Sector Facilities Technicians: Mike Hume, Dan Clark, Mike Belarde, Dean Prowker, Randy Miller, Jim Maclellan; Engineering Technicians: Lee Jenson, Tom Page; SOD Chief: Bob Diaz; and Electronics and Facilities Branch Chief: Sean Wink. Many important issues facing Facilities were discussed along with Team Building exercises.

Safety: Safety kits have been sent out to WR field offices that operate snow cats. The Kits included a GPS, 72 hour kit, and 406 mhz Personal Locator Beacon (PLB). This is also in conjunction with Snow Cat training that is slated to be held in Salt Lake City this year for electronics and facility technicians.